



# Hesse Herald

**September, First Edition 2009-10**

Mission: To ignite a passion for learning and teaching at high levels.

Vision: From school to the world. All students prepared for productive futures.

## In the Middle Grades:

Welcome new 6<sup>th</sup> graders! Sixth and seventh graders are changing classes, and we have added Spanish to the Connections classes.

Girl's softball has been cancelled. Look for information about volleyball in the Spring.

Dance for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will begin in January.

## Dates to Remember:

September 30:	Progress Reports Issued
October 16:	½ Day for students
November 4:	School closed; teacher furloughs
November 9:	Report cards issued
November 11:	Veteran's Day Holiday
November 20:	½ Day for students; Conferences
November 25-27:	Thanksgiving Holidays

## Dismissal:

Please call before 2:30 with any changes in the way your child is to go home. We understand that emergencies occur, but send a note to the teacher or call before 2:30 when possible.

## Testing Update:

The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills will be given in October to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

## Attendance:

**Thanks to all those students who have gotten to school on time.** It is very important that students attend school and arrive on time. Students may be designated as truant or be in danger of retention due to absences. Plans are being completed to reward students with good attendance.

Reminder: School begins at 8:50 AM. Please have students at school and in class by 8:50. Any student arriving after the bell is considered tardy and must come to the office for a tardy slip. Parents bringing students after the bell should come to the office and sign the student in. Please help us by getting students to school on time. Students who are tardy miss valuable instruction time.

The Code of Conduct (pp. 24-25) explains the attendance policy for truancy and for academic credit. For truancy, which can result in a court appearance, a

## FYI:

We are seeking parent volunteers to serve on the school council. Please contact Mr. Butler if you are interested.

Please collect box tops for education and turn them in to Portable 6. We were able to furnish the planners for grades 3-7.

**Fall Pictures:** October 1 (make-ups November 3)

Parents: You now have access to your child's teacher's grade book from your home computer with Power School. See Mrs. Brookshire, IS, about signing up for your username and password.

Reminder to parents: Children should not transport any prescription or over-the-counter medication to school. If a child needs any medication administered during the day, the parent must bring the medication in themselves and sign a medication permission form. This includes any over-the-counter remedy (pills, ointments, cough drops, etc). All medications from last year were discarded at the end of the year.

If you have any uniforms that your child has outgrown, please consider donating them to the school. Uniforms may be brought to the nurse's office or to the counselor's office.

**Please help us recycle:** Newspapers and phone books should be placed in the green bins in front or back of the school. Please do not put plastic bags in these containers.

A new phone system has been installed throughout the System. The new numbers use the 395 prefix. The last four digits remain the same.

Students, grades kindergarten through twelve, in the Savannah Chatham County School System who demonstrate a high degree of intellectual, academic, and /or creative ability are provided with special instructional services by the Program for gifted Students. Eligibility criteria for placement in this program are determined by the State Board of Education. Referrals for consideration for eligibility for gifted services may be made by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, and other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities. For a summary of eligibility criteria or for further information about Savannah Chatham County School System Program for Gifted Students, please contact the Gifted Education

student can have only 5 unexcused absences a year. Doctor's notes, obituaries, or government notices should be sent for excused absences. Written parent notes may also be sent for up to 5 days and are subject to approval. Excused absences include illness, death in immediate family, religious holidays, military family leave, and court appearances.

For Academic Credit, students who accumulate more than 7 absences per semester or 15 for the year either excused and/or unexcused will not be promoted unless the site-based attendance committee excuses the absences

### **Safety Reminders:**

***Students should be dropped off only at front drive.***

***Please do not drop off students in the back parking lot. Park and walk the student across the drive at the cross walk.***

***Students should be picked up in the carpool line in front unless instructed to do otherwise.***

Please remain in your cars when picking up out front and remain in the designated lanes. Do not park by the street-side curb. Teachers will walk students to cars.

**Students should not be dropped off in the morning before 8:20. Students eating breakfast should arrive by 8:35.**

**Helmets must be worn if students plan to ride bicycles back-and-forth to school. It's the law. We discourage the use of scooters, but helmets must be worn if riding a scooter. Bicycles should be chained during the day.**

**Please drive slowly and watch carefully at front drive and in the back parking lot.**

Specialist at your child's school or contact:

Debbie Burnette, the Elementary Teacher Specialist of Gifted and Advanced Learning at 912-395-1114 or [debbie.burnette@sccpss.com](mailto:debbie.burnette@sccpss.com).

John Sutlive, the Secondary Teacher Specialist of Gifted and Advanced Learning at 912-395-1243 or [john.sutlive@sccpss.com](mailto:john.sutlive@sccpss.com).

### **PTA:**

Please join PTA.

October 23 will be BINGO Night.

Look for information soon about the World's Finest Chocolate sales!

Go to the PTA website for information about all things PTA: [www.hessepta.org](http://www.hessepta.org).

Students, parents, and staff have access to BrainPOP, BrainPoP Jr. and BrainPOP Espanol thanks to the PTA for funding our subscription. Anyone may log in by going to [www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com). User name: hessebears and password: hessie123. Click "Go".

### **Speech Notes:**

Enhancing Your Child's Communication Skills from the office of Dr. B. Wilson, Speech-Language Pathologist

Communication skills are important for success in school and in life; every child can benefit from their continued development. You can help anytime and anywhere – in the car, at meal time or at bedtime. The following suggestions can be used with children at most grade and reading levels: Listening is very important. When you listen, your child will be encouraged to talk more and will learn to listen by your example. Listening is one of the main ways children learn. Encourage reading: Read to your child and let your child see you reading. Go to the library together. Subscribe to a magazine for your child. Give books as gifts. Enjoy language. Help your child be creative with language: tell stories, play word games, keep a diary, write letters to friends, etc.

Next month's topic: What is Language?